

WIRELESS AND PASSIVE TABLETING APPARATUS FOR INPUTTING TO COMPUTER

Field of the Invention

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This invention relates to a peripheral equipment of a computer. A main function of the apparatus according to the present invention is to convert tracks of handwriting to digital values, that is, X and Y coordinates and then input them into a computer. With the help of corresponding driver programs and applications, it can 10 display tracks that a user draws on the tablet directly on the screen of computer. The tablet is primarily applied in the fields of handwriting identification system and drawing.

Description of the Prior Art

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By far, there are several tablet hardware manufacturers such as the WACOM in Japan, the AIPTEK in Taiwan and the HanWang Technology Co.,Ltd. in China. After several years of development, the tablet technique has been on the way to be matured. And more tablet products have come into the world and are on hot sale, 20 such as wired tablet, wireless tablet, wired pressure-sensitive tablet, wireless pressure-sensitive tablet and the like. By principle, all these tablets may be divided into such kinds as the electromagnetic one, the touchable one, the ultrasonic-localizing one, the photoelectric one and so on. Till now, the WACOM Company in Japan is the major in manufacturing wireless and passive tablets in the industrial 25 circles. The patents of WACOM's tablet have following two features: one is that the transmitting coil and the receiving coil are just the same one; the other is that it first emits an electromagnetic wave with the same frequency as a resonance frequency of a pen circuit for a period of time so as to resonate the inductor and capacitors in the pen circuit, then it stops emitting and switches to a receiving state, and 30 thereafter the oscillation of resonant wave in the pen circuit will be attenuated, for

there is no outer impetus to the inductors and capacitors in the pen circuit. The procedure above described is illustrated in Figure 3. Now a signal is extracted out through an amplifying and filtering circuit to finally determine the coordinate values of X and Y.

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Summary of the Invention

The present invention is such a wireless and passive pressure-sensitive tabletting apparatus. Wherein the term "wireless" means that nothing wires a pen and a tablet. And the term "passive" means that no battery is in the pen. And the term "pressure-sensitive" means that the tablet could sense the pen's pressure. The principal points of technique adopted in the present invention to determine the coordinate values of X and Y and to sense the pen's pressure are illustrated in Figure 1: wherein auxiliary CPU (MCU2) generates a square wave and inputs it to a transmitting circuit, the transmitted electromagnetic wave is inputted to a pen circuit to form resonance, then output to a receiving circuit and amplified by an amplifying circuit, which is connected with an output of the receiving circuit, then the resultant signal is input to a phase angle and amplitude detecting circuit to conduct phase angle detection and amplitude detection. After an integrating circuit, a signal is input to primary CPU. Thus, the function of inputting to the computer with a wireless passive pen has been realized. The operating process is as follows: a square wave, generated by the auxiliary CPU (MCU2), is inputted to a transmitting circuit. An electromagnetic wave, whose waveform is shown in Figure 2, is transmitted continuously through the coils of Y direction. By Fourier Transform, it is known that the square wave has higher harmonics with the frequencies of odd times of its own. And the resonance frequency determined by the inductors and capacitors of the pen is just a certain odd times of the square wave's frequency. Therefore, once the pen's resonant coil is induced by the higher harmonics of the square wave of the tablet's coil, it will resonate; and once a resonance signal is received by the coil of X direction of the receiving circuit, it will be amplified by the

amplifying circuit and then input to the phase angle and amplitude detecting circuit, where the signals are divided into I phase and J phase. Finally, inputting the signals with I phase and signals with J phase into the CPU via the integrating circuit. The primary CPU calculates the amplitude and phase angle, wherein the amplitude corresponding to the coordinate values of X and Y, and the phase angle being direct proportion to the pen's pressure. When the pen tip is pressed down, the pen's resonance phase deviates because of variation of the inductance in the pen. Therefore, current pressure from the pen can be obtained by measuring the very phase angle.

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Differing from the tablet of WACOM Company, the present invention accomplishes its signal transmitting and receiving through the coils of direction Y and X respectively. Besides this, transmitting and receiving procedures of the present invention are conducted continuously, but not in an alternative way as the tablet of WACOM Company do.

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Brief Description of the Drawings

Figure 1 is a system block diagram of a wireless and passive tableting apparatus for inputting to computer;

20 Figure 2 shows waveforms transmitted electromagnetic wave according to the present invention;

Figure 3 shows waveforms of the resonance's decaying oscillation of the WACOM tablet;

25 Figure 4 is a transmitting circuit and a receiving circuit according to the present invention;

Figure 5 is an amplifying circuit according to the present invention;

Figure 6 is a phase angle and amplitude detecting circuit according to the present invention;

30 Figure 7 is an integrating circuit according to the present invention.

Figure 8 is a pen's paralleled resonant circuit of the present invention.

Detailed Description of the Preferred Embodiments

5 Hereinafter, the invention will be described in conjunction with the preferred
embodiments and drawings.

10 Figure 1 shows a block diagram of the system according to the present
invention. An auxiliary CPU, which generates a square wave, connects with a
transmitting circuit, which can transmit electromagnetic wave continuously. A pen
circuit receives the electromagnetic wave transmitted from the transmitting circuit to
produce a resonant signal. Then the resonant signal is transmitted to receiving
circuit continuously, and amplified by an amplifying circuit that connects with the
receiving circuit. The amplified signals is inputted into an phase angle and
15 amplitude detecting circuit, and the signals output from the phase angle and
amplitude detecting circuit are inputted into a primary CPU via an integrating circuit.

20 A waveform of a transmitted electromagnetic wave according to the present
invention is shown in Figure 2, wherein its cycle is of odd times of a resonance
cycle determined by the inductors and capacitors in the pen.

25 The transmitting circuit and receiving circuit of the present invention are
illustrated in Figure 4, wherein the part in the direction of Y is a continuous
transmitting circuit. By sequentially gating the transmitting circuits Y1, Y2.....Y18...
...Y24, and regularly gating the receiving circuits X1, X2.....X18.....X24 in turn,
the position in Y coils can be determined for the pen according to the strength of a
received signal, that is, which Y coils the pen locates can be determined. Similarly,
by regularly gating the transmitting circuits Y1, Y2.....Y18.....Y24 in turn, and
sequentially gating the receiving circuits X1, X2.....X18.....X24, which X coils the
30 pen locates can be determined also. Following is the practical connection of the

circuit: the transmitting circuits are in the direction of Y and the receiving circuits are in the direction of X. L10, L11, L12, L13, L14 and L15 stand for chips, among which L13, L14 and L15 are adopted for transmitting signals and L10, L11 and L12 are adopted for receiving signals. A square wave signal, generated by an auxiliary

5 CPU (MCU2), is inputted into pin 3 (X port) of chips L13, L14 and L15 respectively via the RX+ terminals of the transmitting circuit shown in Figure 5. For chip L13, its X0~X7 ports corresponding to pins 13, 14, 15, 12, 1, 5, 2 and 4 connect with the coils in the direction of Y respectively, the output terminals of the coils are grounded; INH terminal corresponding to pin 6 is used for chip selection; A terminal,

10 B terminal and C terminal corresponding to pins 11, 10 and 9 are gating terminals, all connecting with the primary CPU; VEE terminal corresponding to pin 7 is connected to a negative voltage. For chip L14, its X0~X7 ports corresponding to pins 13, 14, 15, 12, 1, 5, 2 and 4 connect with the coils in the direction of Y respectively, the output terminals of the coils are grounded; INH terminal corresponding to pin 6 is used for chip selection; A terminal, B terminal and C terminal corresponding to pins 11, 10 and 9 are gating terminals, all connecting with the primary CPU; VEE terminal corresponding to pin 7 is connected to a negative voltage. And for L15, its X0~X7 ports corresponding to pins 13, 14, 15, 12,

15 1, 5, 2 and 4 connect with the coils in the direction of Y respectively, the output terminals of the coils are grounded; INH terminal corresponding to pin 6 is used for chip selection; A terminal, B terminal and C terminal corresponding to pins 11, 10 and 9 are gating terminals, all connecting with the primary CPU; VEE terminal corresponding to pin 7 is connected to a negative voltage. The RX+ terminals of the receiving circuit connect with the pin 3 (X ports) of chip L10, chip L11 and chip

20 L12 to output the received signal into the amplifying circuit. For chip L10, its X0~X7 ports corresponding to pins 13, 14, 15, 12, 1, 5, 2 and 4 connect with the coils in the direction of X respectively, the output terminals of the coils are grounded; INH terminal corresponding to pin 6 is used for chip selection; A terminal, B terminal and C terminal corresponding to pins 11, 10 and 9 are gating terminals, all connecting with the primary CPU; VEE terminal corresponding to pin 7 is

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connected to a negative voltage. For chip L11, its X0~X7 ports corresponding to pins 13, 14, 15, 1, 5, 2 and 4 connect with the coils in the direction of X respectively, the output terminals of the coils are grounded; INH terminal corresponding to pin 6 is used for chip selection; A terminal, B terminal and C terminal corresponding to pins 11, 10 and 9 are gating terminals, all connecting with the primary CPU; VEE terminal corresponding to pin 7 is connected to a negative voltage. And for L12, its X0~X7 ports corresponding to pins 13, 14, 15, 1, 5, 2 and 4 connect with the coils in the direction of X respectively, the output terminals of the coils are grounded; INH terminal corresponding to pin 6 is used for chip selection; A terminal, B terminal and C terminal corresponding to pins 11, 10 and 9 are gating terminals, all connecting with the primary CPU; VEE terminal corresponding to pin 7 is connected to a negative voltage.

An amplifying circuit according to the present invention is shown in Figure 5 wherein an AGC (automatic gain control) circuit, controlled by the primary CPU, is used to eliminate the signal's distortion resulted from the variation of the distance between the pen and the tablet. The received signal is coupled into the circuit via RX+ terminal, which connects with ends of two parallel resistors R1 and R2. The other end of the resistor R2 connects with pin 2 of an amplifier IC12A and one end of a resistor R3 in parallel, and the other end of the resistor R3 connects with pin 1 of IC12A, pin 12 of the chip IC14 and one end of a resistor 6. The pin 4 of the IC12A is connected to analogue ground. The other end of resistor R1 connects with one end of a resistor R4, a capacitor C6 and a reference voltage terminal (Vref) in parallel. The other end of the resistor R4 connects with pin 3 of the chip IC12A. The other end of the capacitor C6 is connected to analogue ground and one end of a capacitor C7. The other end of the capacitor C7 connects with the pin 8 of the chip IC12A and power supply VDD. The other end of the resistor R6 connects with pin 13 of chip IC14 and one end of a resistor R7. The other end of the resistor R7 connects with the pin 14 of chip IC14 and one end of a resistor R8. The other end of the resistor R8 connects with pin 15 of chip IC14 and one end of the resistor R9.

The other end of the resistor R9 connects with pin 1 of chip IC14 and one end of a resistor R10. The other end of the resistor R10 connects with pin 2 of chip IC14 and one end of a resistor R11. The other end of the resistor R11 connects with pin 4 of chip IC14 and one end of a resistor R12. The other end of the resistor R12
5 connects with pin 5 of chip IC14 and one end of a resistor R13. The other end of the resistor R13 connects with a reference voltage terminal (Vref). The pin 3 of chip IC14 connects with one end of a capacitor C1, the other end of the capacitor C1 connects with one end of resistor R16 and the pin 5 of chip IC12B . The other end of the resistor R16 connects with the reference voltage terminal (Vref). The pin 7 of
10 chip IC12B, which outputs the output signals, connects with one end of a resistor R26. The other end of the resistor R26 connects with pin 6 of chip IC12B and one end of a resistor R23. The other end of the resistor R23 connects with the reference voltage terminal (Vref). Pin 11 of chip IC14 connects with a signal GA, and pin 10 of chip IC14 connects with a signal GB and pin 9 of chip IC14 connects
15 with a signal GC, and pin 16 of chip IC14 connects with a power supply VDD and one end of a capacitor C14. The other end of the capacitor C14 connects with the analogue ground, and so do pin 6, pin 7 and pin 8 of chip IC14.

The phase angle and amplitude detecting circuit of the present invention is
20 shown in Figure 6. It is designed to shape the transmitted square wave by eliminating the spikes on the rising edges and on the falling edges. With various of combination of turning ON/OFF of switches IC8B and IC8C, the inputted signals are changed into two set of signals having a phase angle difference of 90 degree, which are defined as I phase and J phase respectively. Specifically, an amplified
25 signal is coupled into the circuit via the IN terminal, which connects with pin 3 of a chip IC9A and one end of a resistor R17 in parallel. The other end of the resistor R17 connects with pin 6 of chip IC9B and one end of a resistor R18 in parallel. The other end of the resistor R18 connects with pin 7 of chip IC9B and pin 4 of chip IC8B in parallel. Pin 5 of chip IC9B connects with one end of a resistor R19. The
30 other end of the resistor R19 connects with a reference voltage. Pin 1 of chip IC9A

connects with pin 2 of chip IC9A and pin 8 of chip IC8C. Pin 8 of chip IC9A is connected to a power supply VDD, and pin 4 of chip IC9A connects with an analogue ground. Pin 5 of chip IC8B connects with pin 2 of MCU2. Pin 6 of chip IC8C connects with pin 3 of MCU2. Pin 3 of chip IC8B and pin 9 of chip IC8C are
5 connected together, used as the output terminal to output the detected phase angle and amplitude signals. Pin 11 of MCU2 connects with ends of a capacitor C4 and a resistor R28 respectively, wherein the two other ends of the capacitor C4 and the resistor R28 are connected together to connect with a base of a triode Q1, whose emitter connects with one end of a capacitor C3 in series. The other end of the
10 capacitor C3 connects with one end of a resistor R29 and TX- terminal in parallel. The other end of the resistor R29 connects with power supply VEE. A collector of the triode Q1 connects with TX+ terminal and one end of a capacitor C2 in parallel. And the other end of the capacitor C2 connects with TX- terminal. Pin 5 of MCU2 connects with an OSC clock, and pin 1 of MCU2 connects with ends of a resistor
15 R25 and a capacitor C5 in parallel. The other end of the resistor R25 connects with a power supply VCC, and the other end of the capacitor C5 is grounded. Hang up such pins of MCU2 as pin 4, pin 6, pin 7, pin 8, pin 9, pin 12, pin 13 and pin 14. But let its pin 15 connect with DONE, its pin 16 connect with CMD0, its pin 17 connect with CMD1, its pin 18 connect with CMD2, its pin 19 connect with CMD3, and its
20 pin 20 connect with VCC and one end of a capacitor C19 in parallel. The other end of the capacitor C19 connects with pin 10 of MCU2 and the ground in parallel.

The integrating circuit of the present invention is shown in Figure 7. The IN terminal of the integrating circuit is connected to the OUT terminal. There are two sets of signals having a phase difference of 90 degree, that is, I phase and J phase.
25 Signals with I phase and J phase are inputted into primary CPU via the integrating circuit, and the primary CPU calculates the phase angle and amplitude, wherein the amplitude corresponds to the coordinate positions, and the phase angle corresponds to the pen's pressure. After shaped by the phase angle and amplitude detecting circuit, a signal is coupled into the integrating circuit via the IN terminal,
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which connects with one end of a resistor R21 in series. The other end of the resistor R21 connects with pin 2 of chip IC10A, pin 11 of IC8D and one end of a capacitor C21 in parallel. The other end of the capacitor C21 connects with pin 10 of chip IC8D and pin 1 of chip IC10A in parallel. Pin 12 of chip IC8D connects with
5 the primary CPU. And for chip IC10A, its pin 3 connects with the reference voltage, pin 4 connects with the analogue ground, pin 8 connects with the power supply VDD, and pin 1 connects with one end of a resistor R20. The other end of the resistor R20 is used as the output terminal and connected with the primary CPU.

10 The pen circuit primarily comprises a paralleled resonant circuit composed of capacitors and inductors. And the connection relations are illustrated in Figure 8, wherein an inductor L1 connects with a variable capacitor C1 and the capacitors C2, C3, C4, C5, C6 and C7 in parallel. Then the last two ends of the circuit connect with a switch K1 and a resistor R1 in series respectively, to form a loop. Herein, K1
15 is a switch on the side of the pen, functioning as the right button of a mouse.

A kind of wireless, passive and pressure-sensitive tabletting apparatus is described in the present invention. The resonant circuit in the pen is composed of inductors and capacitors connected in parallel. And the tablet comprises a
20 transmitting circuit, a receiving circuit, an amplifying circuit, a phase angle and amplitude detecting circuit and an integrating circuit. During the process of operation, the user takes hold of the pen to write and draw freely on the tablet with suitable pressure (the switch on the side of the pen acts as the right button of a mouse). With the help of the pen, hardware in the tablet and the corresponding
25 application, the handwriting track that the user made on the tablet just now could be displayed on the computer screen. Thus, the object of inputting handwriting into a computer with the wireless and passive method is well achieved. For instance, once a Chinese word "中" is written on the tablet with the equipped pen, it will be displayed on the computer screen immediately. Thus, the present invention makes
30 it more convenient in computer inputting of Chinese words.